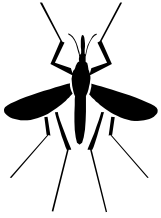


Controlling mosquitoes around your home



Concerns over the human health risks from West Nile Virus, a mosquito-borne virus first detected in the United States in 1999, and in Wisconsin in 2001, raise questions about how people can best reduce their risk of getting the virus. **Eliminating common mosquito breeding grounds around the home is one of the best, most effective strategies you can take to protect yourself and your family.**

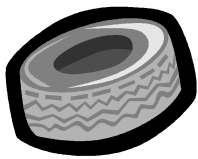
Old discarded tires, bird baths, baby pools, roof gutters and other containers that collect rainfall and allow standing water are breeding grounds for one of the species of mosquitoes responsible for transmitting West Nile Virus.

That species, *Culex pipiens*, more commonly known as the “house mosquito,” typically flies only ¼ mile from where it hatched.

A single tire can produce 500 mosquitoes. Such artificial containers lack the predators found in wetlands, and they are located in or near urban areas with easy access to human hosts. Often, removing such sources of standing water can reduce mosquitoes in an area.



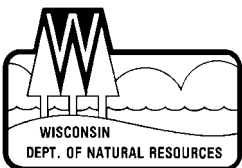
Here's how to prevent mosquitoes around your home:



- ◆ Get rid of old tires, tin cans, buckets, bottles or any water-holding containers.
- ◆ Change the water in birdbaths and plant pots or drip trays at least weekly.
- ◆ Fill in or drain puddles, ruts, etc. in the yard.
- ◆ Keep drains, ditches, and culverts free of weeds, trash so water drains properly.
- ◆ Keep roof gutters free of leaves, other debris.
- ◆ Cover trash containers to keep out rainwater.
- ◆ Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets.
- ◆ Empty plastic wading pools at least once a week and store indoors when not in use. Unused swimming pools should be drained and kept dry during the mosquito season.
- ◆ Fill in tree rot holes and hollow stumps that hold water.
- ◆ Store boats and canoes covered or upside down, or remove rainwater weekly.
- ◆ Avoid tall vegetation and keep shrubbery trimmed so adult mosquitoes will not hide there.
- ◆ Make sure ornamental ponds have fish, which will eat mosquito larvae.
- ◆ Repair window and door screens.

Personal measures also can reduce exposure to mosquitoes:

- ◆ Limit the time spent outdoors at dawn and dusk during mosquito season (June to September)
- ◆ Wear shoes, socks, long-sleeve shirts and long pants when outdoors.
- ◆ Apply insect repellents containing DEET to exposed skin when outdoors.
- ◆ Spray clothes with insect repellents as mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing.



CE-PUB-454

For more information on West Nile Virus:

http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/dph_bcd/westnilevirus/

For more information on mosquito control:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us>

